



General Assembly

February Session, 2002

Amendment

LCO No. 4540

HB0575704540HR0

Offered by:

REP. DANDROW, 30th Dist.

REP. TYMNIAK, 133rd Dist.

To: Subst. House Bill No. 5757

File No. 420

Cal. No. 261

(As Amended)

**"AN ACT CONCERNING NOTIFICATION OF PARTIES UPON THE
REPORTED ABUSE OF A CHILD COMMITTED TO THE
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES."**

1 Strike section 2 in its entirety, and substitute the following in lieu
2 thereof:

3 "Sec. 2. (*Effective from passage*) (a) It is the intent of the General
4 Assembly that the Department of Children and Families initiate a
5 differential response system. On or before July 1, 2003, the Department
6 of Children and Families may establish a differential response pilot
7 program in up to two of the department's regional offices, one in an
8 urban area and one in a rural area. For purposes of the pilot program,
9 the department shall develop and use an assessment standard to
10 determine which reports of abuse and neglect pursuant to section 17a-
11 101g of the general statutes, require a full investigation and which
12 reports may be referred to community-based agencies for services. The

13 standard shall take into account the nature of the report and the level
14 of risk to the child. Notwithstanding the provisions of chapter 319a of
15 the general statutes, under the pilot program, department staff shall
16 refer low risk reports to community-based agencies for services.

17 (b) Community-based agencies utilized by the department shall
18 include mental health professionals, police departments, substance
19 abuse counselors, violence prevention counselors, domestic violence
20 counselors and local health departments. The department shall enter
21 into a contractual relationship with any community-based agency
22 selected to deliver services to be provided under the pilot program.
23 The department shall insure that any community-based agency
24 selected to deliver services under the pilot program shall have the
25 ability to accept referred reports of abuse on a twenty-four hour per
26 day, seven days a week basis. The department shall require periodic
27 progress reports from any community-based agency utilized in the
28 pilot program. Progress reports provided to the department by any
29 community-based agency shall include: A risk assessment concerning
30 the children who are the subject of the referral, the present status of the
31 referral, and an overview of the services provided as a result of the
32 referral. Community-based agencies selected to deliver services under
33 the pilot program shall immediately notify the department, when such
34 agency determines that, notwithstanding the delivery of services in
35 connection with a referral of reported abuse, the risk of harm to the
36 children who are the subject of the referral has increased. On or before
37 January 1, 2003, the Commissioner of Children and Families shall
38 report, in accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes, on the
39 progress of the pilot program to the select committee of the General
40 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children."